



Recent advances in the archaeology of Southern Vanuatu



**SEMINAR PRESENTED BY THE CENTRE FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SCIENCE (CAS)**

DATE: FRIDAY 5TH AUGUST

TIME: 12:30PM-1:30PM

VENUE: 41.G03A, UOW

PRESENTER: DR. JAMES FLEXNER

Dr. James Flexner is currently a lecturer in historical archaeology and heritage at the University of Sydney. Previously, he was a postdoctoral fellow at the Australian National University, and before that, a lecturer at Washington and Lee University (USA). His PhD research in Hawaiian archaeology was completed at the University of California, Berkeley. His primary interests are the historical archaeology and landscape of the South Pacific.

SEMINAR OVERVIEW:

Southern Vanuatu was a crossroads of cross-cultural interaction over the last 3000 years. Two projects explore the nature of these interactions in the colonial period and deeper past. The first project is a recently completed survey of mission stations around the islands of Tanna and Erromango, dating from the 1830s to the early 1920s. Mission houses and indigenous landscapes reveal the ways Christianity was incorporated into Melanesian lives. Material culture recovered from mission sites and museum stores provides evidence for long-distance interactions both in the recent past and deeper in time. A new project, started in 2016, will explore the deeper history of long-term contacts in southern Vanuatu with a particular focus on the Polynesian Outliers, Futuna and Aniwa.



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